**Series: Good, Better, Best!** **September 27, 2026**

**Session #10 Hope Increasing!**

**We are 1.) made up of spirit, soul, and body; 2.) We are absent from the body when we die and true believers are then present with the Lord, 3.) We are reunited with a glorified version of our body in heaven.**

## 1. Made up of spirit, soul, and body

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NLT)** ***Paul's Final Greetings*** [23] Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

## 2. We are absent from the body when we die and true believers are then present with the Lord,

**2 Corinthians 5:6–8 (NLT)** [6] So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. [7] For we live by believing and not by seeing. [8] Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:8

NASB95we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

NIVWe are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

NKJVWe are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

- says plainly death is absent from body present with Lord
- says we can be absent from body, not trapped in state of the body.

**John 11:25–26 (NIV)** [25] Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; [26] and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

**Philippians 1:21–24 (NLT)** [21] For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. [22] But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. [23] I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. [24] But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

**Luke 16:19–31 (NLT)** ***Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus*** [19] Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. [20] At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. [21] As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. [22] "Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, [23] and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. [24] "The rich man shouted, 'Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.' [25] "But Abraham said to him, 'Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. [26] And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.' [27] "Then the rich man said, 'Please, Father Abraham, at least

send him to my father's home. [28] For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don't end up in this place of torment.' [29] "But Abraham said, 'Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.' [30] "The rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.' [31] "But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.' "

Comments

a. The Lazarus here is not the friend that Jesus raised from the dead in John 11.

b. Jesus gives this parable, but some theologians think it is real people because no other parable gives a name (Lazarus).

c. Nevertheless, the passage describes both men in eternity: one at Abraham's side and the other in fiery torment. The man in torment wants his brothers warned so they can avoid that place. The point is that both men are already experiencing eternal blessing or judgment while others are still living on earth; they are not asleep, waiting for a future judgment. **Luke 23:40–43 (NLT)** [40] But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? [41] We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." [42] Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." [43] And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**Revelation 6:9–11 (NLT)** [9] When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony. [10] They shouted to the Lord and said, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you judge the people who belong to this world and avenge our blood for what they have done to us?" [11] Then a white robe was given to each of them. And they were told to rest a little longer until the full number of their brothers and sisters—their fellow servants of Jesus who were to be martyred—had joined them.

**Comments:** People in heaven are asking how long until the guy who killed me is judged. The martyr is in heaven and the killer is still living in the earth.

**Hebrews 12:22–23 (NLT)** [22] No, you *("you" refers to Christian Believers)* have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. [23] You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. You have **come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect.**

### 3. We are reunited with a glorified version of our body in heaven.

**1 Corinthians 15:42–46 (NLT)** [42] It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. [43] Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. [44] They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies. [45] The Scriptures tell us, "The first man, Adam, became a living person." But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. [46] What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later.

**1 Thessalonians 4:14–18 (NLT)** [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. [15] We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who

have died. [16] For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. [17] Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. [18] So encourage each other with these words.

**Hope is A Christian Foundation**

**Romans 15:9–13 (NLT)** [9] He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote: "For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to your name." [10] And in another place it is written, "Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles." [11] And yet again, "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles. Praise him, all you people of the earth." [12] And in another place Isaiah said, "The heir to David's throne will come, and he will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on him." [13] I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. **Place Hope on Jesus**
2. **God Is The Source of Hope**

**1 Peter 1:3–7 (NLT)** ***The Hope of Eternal Life*** [3] All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, [4] and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. [5] And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. [6] So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. [7] These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

1 Peter 1:3 NASB Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:3 NIV Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

3. **Have Great Expectation or a Living Hope In Jesus**
4. **Wonderful Joy Ahead**

2 **Corinthians 4:16–18 (NLT**) [16] That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. [17] For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! [18] So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

5. **Things we see will be gone but thing we must have "faith in" are the things that will last forever.**

## Thank God for Eternal Life In Heaven & Rescue From Hell!

**Ephesians 1:7 (NLT)** [7] He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

**Romans 6:23 (NLT)** [23] For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Key Descriptions and Imagery of Hell**

- **A Fiery Furnace and Lake of Fire:** Described as a place of burning fire and sulfur, symbolizing intense pain and total destruction.
- **Outer Darkness:** A metaphorical picture representing the complete absence of God's light, goodness, and joy.
- **Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth:** An expression showing deep regret, grief, and physical or emotional anguish.
- **Eternal Separation:** Described fundamentally as being shut out from the presence and grace of God.
- **The Undying Worm:** An image (borrowed from Isaiah) suggesting ongoing decay, consumption, and a torment that does not cease.
- **Bottomless Pit –** An abyss with no bottom, and some say this means constant sense of falling.

6. **Delivered From The Judgement of Hell Through Surrender to Jesus**

## Reason For Hope

**Philippians 3:20–21 (NLT)** [20] But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. [21] He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

7. **Citizens of Heaven**
8. **Eagerly Waiting For His Return As Savior**
9. **Changes Our Bodies**
10. **Heaven – Home, No Sadness, Can't Imagine How Good, Restoration of Paradise, God and Jesus Are There, New Bodies, Active Purpose, Continued Relationships, Marriage Dinner of Jesus.**

## Heaven

- **Revelation 21:4 (NLT)** [4] He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."
- **John 14:2–3 (NLT)** [2] There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? [3] When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.
- **1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)** [9] That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."
- **Hebrews 11:16 (NLT)** [16] But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.
- **Revelation 22:1–5 (NLT)** ***Eden Restored*** Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. [2] It flowed down the center of the

main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. [3] No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. [4] And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. [5] And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

**The Presence of God**

- **God's Dwelling Place:**
- **The Temple and Sanctuary:**

**Physical and Architectural Imagery (The New Jerusalem)**

- **Stunning Materials:**
- **Streets of Gold:**
- **The River and Tree of Life:**
- **Brilliant Illumination:**

**The "No Mores" (Absence of Suffering)**

- **No Pain or Sorrow:**
- **No Sin or Night:**

**The Experience of Believers**

- **Physical and Tangible Renewal:**
- **Active Purpose:**

**We Will Know Each Other**

- **Individual Identity:** Death does not erase who you are; instead, your personality and identity remain intact.
- **Deep Relationships:** Reunited families and friends will experience love and fellowship without sorrow, pain, or separation.
- **Focus on God:** While reunions will bring great joy, the primary focus of heaven will be worshiping and enjoying God.

**Revelation 19:9 (NLT)** [9] And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.”

## Rewards in Heaven

- **Matthew 6:19–21 (NLT)** ***Teaching about Money and Possessions*** [19] “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. [21] Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.
- **Matthew 16:27 (NLT)** [27] For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.
- **Luke 12:33–34 (NLT)** [33] “Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. [34] Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.
- **Matthew 5:11–12 (NLT)** [11] “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. [12] Be happy about it! Be very glad!

For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

- **Luke 6:35 (NLT)** [35] "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.
- **1 Corinthians 3:8 (NLT)** [8] The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work.
- **2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT)** [10] For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.
- **Matthew 6:4 (NLT)** [4] Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

**11. Reward in Heaven For Work or Pain Here**

**Jesus is Coming Soon**

**Matthew 24:36–39 (NLT)** [36] "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.

[37] "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. [38] In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. [39] People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.

**12. Jesus is Coming Soon**

**Action For Your Eternal Hope** **A. Be Prepared Eternally By Repenting, Believing, Surrendering Your Life To Jesus** - (Know He is coming and be prepared) **B. Study the Word Regarding Eternal Hope**

Romans 15:4 (NLT) [4] Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

**C. Fix our Eyes** –

**(2 Corinthians 4:18b (NLT))**….we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

**D. Let Hope Rise** (as you study God, His promises, and His perspective, as well as changing your perspective)

**E. Live Expectant** – (Live expectant and compare our challenges to blessings of heaven)

**Hope Is Valuable and Something to Hold Onto Tightly**

- **Hebrews 6:19 (NLT)** [19] This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.
- **Hebrews 10:23 (NLT)** [23] Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.
- **Romans 12:12a (NLT)**[12] Rejoice in our confident hope.

- **Lamentations 3:22–24 (NLT)** [22] The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. [23] Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. [24] I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!"
- **Psalm 16:11 (NLT)** [11] You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.
- **Psalm 23 (NLT)** ***A psalm of David.*** [1] The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. [2] He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. [3] He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. [4] Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. [5] You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. [6] Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

## Weekly Prayer Time

**⇨ Seize the scriptures that jumped out at you, read them, pray over them, put them where you can be reminded of them. ⇨ Go through Action For Your Eternal Hope and Let the Lord lead you in any action you need to take.**